

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims is intended to supersede all previously filed listings of claims. Kindly enter the following amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-21. (Cancelled)

Claim 22. (New)

A beam member comprising:

at least two elongated members configured to form a hollow structure, each elongated member having an identical "C" shaped cross section comprising:

- a first end;
- a second end spatially separated from the first end and defining an opening;
- a first section adjacent the first end;
- a second section adjacent the second end and configured substantially opposite the first section;

- a third section extending between the first section and the second section and positioned substantially opposite the opening;

- an angled corner between the first section and the third section, the angled corner having an interior corner side substantially facing the opening and an exterior corner side defining a first inclined line tangent to the exterior corner side; and

- at least one indentation on the third section directed toward the opening and having an interior indentation surface, the interior indentation surface having a first surface section at least partially facing the second section and defining a second inclined line; and

a joining means for joining the at least two identical elongated members to each other;

wherein the distance between the first inclined line and the first end is less than the distance between the second inclined line and the second end.

Claim 23. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, wherein:

- the first inclined line is angled at about 45 degrees with respect to the first section; and
- the second inclined line is substantially parallel to the first inclined line.

Claim 24. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, wherein the cross section further comprises at least one of:
a rounded corner between the second section and the third section;
a first corner section between the first end and the first section; or

a second corner section between the second end and the second section.

Claim 25. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, wherein the length of the second section is less than the length of the third section.

Claim 26. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, wherein the joining means comprises intermittent welds along the second end of at least one of the elongated members.

Claim 27. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, further comprising at least three elongated members having opposing ends, the elongated members being arranged such that the opposing ends of the elongated members do not coincide at a common axial position of the hollow structure.

Claim 28. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, wherein at least one of the elongated members is fabricated from at least one of metal, plastic, glass, or composite materials

Claim 29. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, wherein at least one of the elongated members is fabricated from at least one of fiber cement or fiber-glass reinforced plastic.

Claim 30. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, wherein the joining means is at least one of a fusion weld, a rivet, a screw, a bolt, or an adhesive

Claim 31. (New)

The beam member of claim 1, wherein the joining means extends along an entire length of at least one elongated member.

Claim 32. (New)

A structural element comprising:
two elongated members configured to form a hollow structure, the elongated members having identical "C" shaped cross sections, each cross section comprising:

- a first end;
- a second end spatially separated from the first end and defining an opening;
- a first section adjacent the first end;
- a second section adjacent the second end and configured substantially opposite the

first section;

a third section extending between the first section and the second section and positioned substantially opposite the opening;

an angled corner between the first section and the third section, the angled corner having an interior corner side substantially facing the opening and an exterior corner side defining a first inclined line; and

at least one indentation on the third section directed toward the opening and having an interior indentation surface, the interior indentation surface having a first surface section at least partially facing the second section and defining a second inclined line; and

a joining means for joining the at least two identical elongated members to each other;

wherein the distance between the first inclined line and the first end is less than the distance between the second inclined line and the second end.

Claim 33. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein:

the first inclined line is angled at about 45 degrees with respect to the first section; and
the second inclined line is substantially parallel to the first inclined surface.

Claim 34. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein the cross section further comprises a rounded corner between the second section and the third section.

Claim 35. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein the cross section further comprises:

a first corner section between the first end and the first section; and
a second corner section between the second end and the second section.

Claim 36. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein the third section includes at least two indentations

Claim 37. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein the two elongated members have unequal lengths.

Claim 38. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein the joining means comprises at least one intermittent weld applied along the second end of at least one of the elongated members.

Claim 39. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein the two elongated members includes at least four elongated members comprising:

- a first elongated member and a second elongated member joined end-to-end to form a first joint; and

- a third elongated member and a fourth elongated member joined end-to-end to form a second joint;

wherein the first and second elongated members and the third and fourth elongated members are configured to form the hollow structure and the first end joint and the second end joint do not coincide.

Claim 40. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein at least one of the elongated members is composed of at least one of metal, plastic, glass, or composite material.

Claim 41. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein the joining means is at least one of a fusion weld, a rivet, a screw, a bolt, or an adhesive.

Claim 42. (New)

The structural element of claim 32, wherein the joining means extends along the entire length of the elongated members.

Claim 43. (New)

A method for manufacturing a structural element comprising:

providing two elongated members having identical "C" shaped cross sections, each cross section comprising:

- a first end;

- a second end spatially separated from the first end and defining an opening;

- a first section adjacent the first end;

- a second section adjacent the second end and configured substantially opposite the first section;

- a third section extending between the first section and the second section and positioned substantially opposite the opening;

- an angled corner between the first section and the third section, the angled corner having an interior corner side substantially facing the opening and an exterior corner side defining a first inclined line; and

- at least one indentation on the third section directed toward the opening and having an interior indentation surface, the interior indentation surface having a first surface section at least partially facing the second section and defining a second inclined line; and

joining the two elongated members to form a hollow transversal structure.

Claim 44. (New)

The method of claim 43, wherein providing the two elongated members includes the first inclined line being angled at about 45 degrees with respect to the first section and the second inclined line being substantially parallel to the first inclined line.

Claim 45. (New)

A beam member comprising:

at least two elongated members configured to form a hollow structure, each elongated member having an identical "C" shaped cross section comprising:

- a first end;
- a second end spatially separated from the first end and defining an opening;
- a first section adjacent the first end;
- a second section adjacent the second end and configured substantially opposite the first section;
- a third section extending between the first section and the second section and positioned substantially opposite the opening;
- an angled corner between the first section and the third section, the angled corner having an interior corner side substantially facing the opening and an exterior corner side defining a first inclined line tangent to the exterior corner side; and
- at least one indentation on the third section directed toward the opening and having an interior indentation surface; and

a joining means for joining the at least two identical elongated members to each other;

wherein the distance between the first inclined line and the first end is less than the distance between the interior indentation surface and the second end.